

Tale Feathers

Sept 2004

Volume 71
Number 6

So, What IS the St. Louis Audubon Society, Anyway?

Tuesday, September 21, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. at the Powder Valley Nature Center.

YOUR St. Louis Audubon Society-There's More Than You Imagined

Yes, as most people know, we're big on birds. But what does that really mean, and is there more? Did you know that during the 2003/2004 school year, our volunteers presented educational programs to over 1200 students, or that we offer programs as diverse as birds and bats, owls and rivers? Come hear, see, and feel just what we're all about-from field trips, to bird monitoring, to classroom programs, to conservation advocacy, and much, much more. Meet the people that make it happen and find out if there's something interesting for you. Bring along that friend or relative that looks at you sideways when you say, "Audubon." Whether you're new, been around for years, or haven't even joined, we guarantee you'll learn something new about St. Louis Audubon!

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Open to all-members or not.
Refreshments will be available,
and door prizes, too!!

From the intersection of
Interstates 44 & 270, take
Watson Rd. to Geyer Rd. Turn
north on Geyer for 200 yds. to
Cragwold Rd. Go west on
Cragwold for 1 mi. to nature center
entrance on right. Follow
drive to parking lot. Enter building
through left entrance.

Questions, call Cathy Devine at
314-962-3460.



Mike Grant

St. Louis Audubon Society

Publicity Committee Anyone?

Our organization's greatest resource is our members, and St. Louis Audubon has many talented and learned naturalists. Occasionally, some of our dedicated naturalists get recognized by the media. One of our past presidents, Marshall Magner (91 years young), was featured in a July 15 article of the South Edition of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for his contributions to nature education. The city of Webster Groves recently honored Marshall by dedicating a portion of Larson Park as the Marshall Magner Bug Kingdom. Our past and present Vice Presidents for Conservation, Sue Gustafson and Linda Tossing, were featured on the front page of the July 23 Webster-Kirkwood Times in an article about Audubon's Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program. However, we need to do a better job of publicizing our activities and the volunteers who participate in them. Our board has been thinking about forming a publicity committee who would write press releases and better promote our events. If anyone is interested in contributing his or her time and talents to this endeavor, please call Dave Tylka at 636/942-3142.

FWS Urban Bird Conservation Treaty Program

Sue Gustafson

Recently, St. Louis was selected as the next major metropolitan area to participate in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (FWS) Urban Bird Conservation Treaty Program. This program provides federal funding to municipalities and non-government organizations involved in bird conservation projects in the areas of habitat restoration, education/outreach, and hazard reduction. I am currently serving as the Coordinator of this program, which is a Cooperative Agreement program between FWS and the St. Louis Audubon Society.

The program in St. Louis will provide funding for habitat restoration projects in Forest Park's Kennedy Woods, four St. Louis County Parks (Creve Coeur Lake, West Tyson, Hunter's Ford, Lower Meramec), Tower Grove Park, and The Green Center. Funding will be provided by FWS, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and from a Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative grant.

Funding received to-date has allowed us to focus on the projects in Forest Park and Creve Coeur Lake County Park. The Forest Park project will establish a permanent water source for wildlife in Kennedy Woods in the area of the recently removed Valley Drive and will help

defray seed/planting expenses necessary to re-establish native vegetation in the former roadbed and other parts of the forest. The Creve Coeur Lake project will help fund the establishment of a 35 acre wet mesic bottomland forest and 25 acre shrub marsh in the Little Creve Coeur Wetland complex which will eventual-

ly encompass a total of 700 acres. I will continue to provide updates in *Talefeathers* on these projects and future projects as the funding becomes available.



Mike Grant

President's Report

Dave Tylka

I am wrestling with the decision of whether or not to renew my membership in National Audubon or sign up for the Local Chapter Membership option that is listed on the back of this newsletter. St. Louis Audubon Society (SLAS) became the first chapter of the national organization in 1947-48. At that time we collected the dues for BOTH our chapter and National, and SLAS would send National a share of the dues we collected. A couple of years later, National took over the responsibility of promoting membership in Audubon, collecting joint dues, and sharing dues sent in from members in a certain area with the local chapter. Although keeping up with the memberships of 500 grassroots chapters across the U.S. had its challenges, the system worked well for over 50 years.

Then in June of 2000, the National Audubon Society Board of Directors voted to phase out the chapter dues share, a few months before I was elected to a 3-year term on this Board. Jim Holsen and I both wrote a letter on behalf of SLAS with suggestions, as did about a hundred other chapter officers and representatives. Most of these letters were not even acknowledged. As I observed first hand on this Board, the relationship between chapters and National was severely strained due to this and other subsequent decisions by the top administrators who demonstrate little sensitivity to chapter programs and operations.

Some chapters and members-at-large are really upset about the way National has treated chapters and have formed an internal group called Take Back Audubon (TBA). TBA produced five resolutions to improve chapter representation and equity as well as a slate of National Board candidates for last December's Annual Meeting. SLAS voted for the TBA candidates, who lost. The National Board has decided to take up the resolutions for consideration. (For more information about TBA, look at the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society Website at www.smbas.org)

Chapters are still receiving a small por-

tion of dues from National (called a "safety net"), before the final phase-out of the dues share. A few chapters have folded, while others have reduced or eliminated activities such as newsletter production. Our chapter has some reserves, which we use to continue producing newsletters. However, we no longer donate the same amount of educational materials and curricula to school districts and have cut back other programmatic and operational activities.

Getting back to my membership decision, I think I would rather contribute to programs that our local chapter chooses to produce and support, especially in light of how National has dealt with chapters. Should we even list the national membership option in our newsletter? Good question! I know many chapters have decided to eliminate this option, including one chapter in Ohio which has two representatives on the National Board. Am I advocating that we should sever ties with National Audubon? Absolutely not! Although separate entities exist such as Massachusetts Audubon, we all benefit from a continued relationship. Also, I am very optimistic about working with Audubon Missouri (a subsidiary of National Audubon) on local projects such as a wetland nature center and statewide projects such as the Important Bird Areas Program and the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative. Meanwhile, I want to support local conservation and education activities and will send in a check for my local chapter membership and welcome all to do the same. And, if anyone would like to contribute more than the \$15 basic chapter membership, it would be greatly appreciated!



Mike Grant

Audubon Missouri Annual Meeting

Saturday September 18, 2004

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Old Chain of Rocks Bridge

St. Louis, MO

Join us for a fun and informative meeting with special guest U.S. Representative William Lacy Clay.

Learn the latest on Audubon Missouri's exciting conservation projects, including the proposed Mississippi River project in St. Louis, Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center in Joplin, and Important Bird Areas program.

Tour the Lilly Belle, Audubon's classic sternwheeler

There will be an optional birding trip from 9-11 a.m. to the Columbia Bottoms Conservation Area. Trip leaders are Brad Jacobs, author of Birds in Missouri and Andy Forbes, Audubon Missouri's director of bird conservation.

The cost is \$ 25.00 per person and includes a box lunch.

To attend, please fill out the form below and send \$25.00 per person to:

Audubon Missouri

2620 Forum Blvd, Suite C-1

Columbia, MO 65203

2004 Annual Meeting Registration Form

____ I plan to attend the Audubon Annual Meeting on Sept 18, 2004, in St. Louis

____ Count me in for the Optional Birding Trip to Columbia Bottom Conservation Area before the meeting

____ My check for the \$25-per-person registration fee is enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

New Members

Edwin E. Antle
 Mary Ball
 Russ & Jeanne Belle
 Daisy Belt
 John Berger
 Renee Boyd
 Diane Capobianco
 Sandra F. Chase
 E.A. Connor
 Anthony Conte
 Melanie Coover
 Maureen Cowan
 Joan Cullon
 Kenneth V. Dawson
 Frances M. Day
 Thomas Dixon
 Suzanne Fricano
 Joanne Gannon
 Virginia Garesche
 Marjorie J. Gautier
 Sarah George
 Robyn German
 Shirley Goldstein
 Douglas Grimm
 Don Guenther
 Richard C. Hackman
 Charlotte Hanselman
 Karen Hausfeld
 Phillip Henderson
 Bernice Hilgert
 J. H. Hurley
 Robert Ingalls
 Kenji Ishida
 Rodney Johnson
 Robert N. Jung
 Lynn Kaiser
 Peter W. Kinsella
 Katie Lodes
 Chriss Lucas
 Mary Marshall
 Joy Martin
 Audrey H. Masker
 Roger McCurley

John E. McDaniel
 William McGuire
 Cynthia Metcalfe
 Jamilon Neimann
 Judith Nowak
 Mr. Tim O'Neil
 Patricia A. O'Keefe
 Delores Peterson
 Cheerie Placke
 Janet Pryibil
 Marianne Przetak
 M. Rahman
 Charles Rea
 John Reichman
 Richard Reiss
 Alice Rieger
 Edward Rosen
 Lawrence Rothman
 Eugene Schaper
 Kevin Schaper
 Helen Schutte
 Dan Sebben
 Kathleen Shea
 Richard Shearer
 Robert Slosberg
 Marilou Stansbery
 Betty J. Thompson
 Marilyn Wiltsch
 Michael Wismann
 Susan Worley
 Daisy L. Flye
 Dorothy Wieser



Mike Grant

Birding Trips

September 4- Saturday, 8:00am; Tower Grove Park. Trip leaders: Nick Barber/John Solodar

September 11- Saturday, 8:00am; Busch/Weldon Spring CA. Trip leaders: Dave Rogles/Mike Grant

September 25-Saturday, 7:30am Carlyle Pelagic Trip Reservations required. Trip leaders: Josh Uffman/Torey Berger

October 9- Saturday, 8:00am; Clarence Cannon/BK Leach/Prairie Slough. Trip leaders: Mike Thelen/Mike Grant

October 16-Saturday, 8:00am; Two Rivers/Riverlands. Trip leader: John Solodar

For more information and directions to the above trips, please contact John Solodar at 314-862-5294 or solodar1@mindspring.com

Green Center Activities

The Green Center is pleased to be selected as the newest partner in the Master Naturalist Certificate program offered through St. Louis Community College-Meramec. In cooperation with the St. Louis Audubon Society and five other local nature-oriented organizations, the Green Center will offer continuing education courses each fall and spring semesters for individual interest or to meet the Certificate's requirements. You may enroll now for these current class offerings:

City Prairies Walk and Seed Collection

NATR:704 MO1

Saturday September 25, 10 AM – 12 noon

Would you like to experience prairies in the middle of St. Louis? Walk the paths through a tall grass prairie-escape & a short grass prairiescape just minutes from your home, and help collect native seeds for the Green Center and for you to plant in your backyard! Learn about the many public open spaces in our region that you may visit where prairie ecosystems are restored. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt. Bring gardening gloves, small paper bags, & pruners if you have them. You'll be invited to return in November to prepare the seeds for propagation, and in January to plant the seeds under "grow lights".

Leading a Nature Walk Without All the Answers

NATR:701 MO1

Saturday, October 2, 9 AM – 12 noon

Would you like to lead a bird, butterfly, or other nature walk, but are intimidated by questions you can't answer? Learn techniques and gain confidence to connect adults or youth with nature even if you don't know everything. Bring your upbeat attitude about the outdoors and a willingness to try a few key guidelines.

Autumn Leaves Walk

NATR:704 MO2

Sunday, October 17, 10AM – 12 Noon

Experience the magic and the meaning of the fall season at its peak. Walk among brilliantly colored autumn leaves on a comfortable trail within the 26 acres of Ruth Park Woods, the last remaining oak/hickory forest in St. Louis. Learn how to identify trees and much more. The University City forester leads this informative and aesthetic walk. Bring tree field guides if you have them.

All classes meet at the Green Center, 8025 Blackberry Ave, University City, MO, 314-725-8314. Fees are \$3 per hour for each individual. Register online at www.stlcc.edu or call 314-984-7777. For more info about the Master Naturalist Certificate Program, please call 314-984-7708.

Must See Wildflower Photography

Exhibit Open to the Public through October 15

Explore the link between nature and art at the Green Center.

View the fine art photographs of Missouri wildflowers taken by Craig D. Barton and lose yourself in his lush landscapes.

The framed images are ready to hang in your home or office at reasonable prices. A portion of the proceeds will support the GreenCenter's environmental programs.

Viewing hours are 11A.M.-6P.M. Mondays-Fridays and 12-4P.M. Saturdays or by appointment. Please contact 314-725-8314 or events@thegreencenter.org.

No fee charged.

Hike and Happy Hour

Saturday, September 11, 4 – 8 P.M.

Hike with us to the prairie, wetland, or woods to see and appreciate the wildlife habitat that Green Center volunteers help maintain and restore throughout the year. After some outdoor fun, return to the Green Center building to enjoy the Craig D. Barton wildflower photography exhibit, meet the artist, and partake of wine and cheese in an informal social gathering.

WILD BIRD REHABILITATION TO BE HOME-LESS: NEEDS HELP TO RELOCATE!

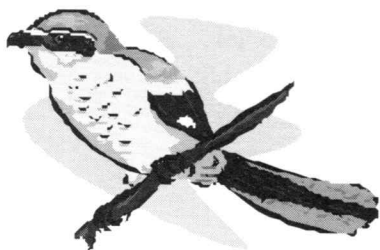
Wild Bird Rehabilitation, Inc., (WBR), the only songbird rehabilitation organization in the region, has less than 30 days to find a new home. After more than 11 years at their current location in Crestwood - with no prior warning from the landlord, WBR was given 30 days to move. WBR has been receiving injured and orphaned songbirds from area residents for more than 11 years. The birds are mended or raised until they can survive independently, and then are released back to the area where they were found.

Peak season runs from April through September. Currently WBR is treating almost 200 birds, with the yearly count being more than 2,500. Support comes from a small but loyal donor base and has only one full-time employee. Over the years, however, hundreds of volunteers have donated precious time to clean, feed and maintain the bird population. Despite tight quarters at the Crestwood facility, every cage is cleaned twice daily and floors swept and mopped daily. Cleanliness and disease management is paramount to good animal care.

WBR is asking the community for help in this emergency. Not only has our need for a permanent building is immediate, but temporary quarters in a commercial space need to be found before September 1. Funds are needed to pay for the move, as well as a temporary and/or permanent facility. Volunteers are needed to help with the move, bird care and setting up in a temporary location.

WBR will continue to accept new birds, and no birds will be released until they are ready. Announcements will be made once our next location is decided.

Volunteers can call at 314-984-9116. Donations can be sent to Wild Bird Rehabilitation, P.O. Box 220601, Kirkwood MO, 63122. WBR has never made an emergency appeal to the public. Please help us now.



Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2,500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2004 - 2005

St. Louis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 220227
Kirkwood, MO 63122
Phone: 314-822-6595

Officers

President - Dave Tylka	636-942-3142
VP Education - Sharon Nickl	636-391-8751
VP Conservation - Linda Tossing	314-849-4260
VP Finance - Torrey Berger	314-579-9227
Treasurer - David Rogles	636-936-0660
Secretary - Mary Smidt	636-227-6127

Board members

Anne Bolte	314-832-0938
Lynne Breakstone	314-726-4772
Jack Cowan	314-832-4292
Cathy Devine	314-962-3460
Ann Earley	314-799-3961
Susan Gustafson	314-968-8128
Ted Heisel	314-401-6218
Anne Rankin Horton	636-256-3402
Dency Kahn	dkahn@stlcc.edu
Julie Leeman	636-861-1490
Mitch Leachman	314-739-5112
Pat Lueders	314-961-6614
Dave Pierce	314-434-1651
John Solodar	314-862-5294
Mike Thelen	314-862-6642
Josh Iffman	314-524-7637
Jim Wilson	314-534-9975

Attention!

The deadline for the Oct. issue is **September 10**. Send inquiries to Anne by

E-mail ambolte@swbell.net
phone 314.832.0938

post 6939 Sharp
St. Louis, MO 63116

St. Louis Audubon Society

P.O. Box 220227

St. Louis, Mo. 63122

Ph: 314.822.6595

www.stlouisaudubon.org



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Join the St. Louis Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society

As a joint member with National Audubon, you will receive National Audubon's quarterly magazine (Audubon) as well as St. Louis Audubon Society's Newsletter (Tale Feathers). Now you also have the opportunity to join only the St. Louis Audubon Society, receive Tale Feathers, and participate in the educational and conservation activities of St. Louis Audubon. There is no distinction between individual and family membership. Dues cover all members at the same address. For information, call (314) 822-6595.

St. Louis Audubon Society / National Audubon Society -- Membership Application

All applicants please check: ☐ New, or ☐ Renewal

Use this form to join St. Louis Audubon / National Audubon

For joint membership in St. Louis Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

☐ Introductory Membership / \$20 ☐ Special Two-Year Introductory Membership / \$30

☐ Senior Citizen / \$15 (New and renewal) ☐ Student / \$15 (New and renewal)

☐ Renewal / \$35 (We recommend that you use the forms supplied by National Audubon)

Membership in only the St. Louis Audubon Society. Write checks payable to **SLAS**. Mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P. O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

☐ Local Chapter Membership only (St. Louis Audubon Society), Introductory and renewal. / \$15

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ NO1 7XCH